Applegate Valley Historical Society
15050 Hwy 238
CPO Box 3122
Applegate, Oregon 97530

March 2005 Newsletter

Hope this finds everyone doing OK. Looks like Spring is on its way. Let's just hope that there will be enough snow in the mountains to supply us with water this summer.

Our March meeting will be the 19th at 10:00 AM at the Museum.

We need to start thinking about where our money will come from once the Jackson County Historical funds end in 2006. We as a society have a very small budget, about $5300.00 a year. This is just for a coordinator, power, postage and state fees. This doesn't allow for any improvements to the grounds or building. If anyone has some ideas, Please let me know.

Peggy has been busy getting things ready to open the Museum for the season. She will have some new flowers planted soon, this adds to the ones that are coming back from last year. She is setting it up like a cabin. If you have anything, for loan that fits within this theme Please let her know as soon as possible. Give her a call at 899-8573.

See you at the next meeting on Saturday March 19, 2005 at 10:00 AM at the Museum. Don't forget your chair.

AVHS Sect. / Tres.
Barbara Niedermeyer

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Wellsville

By John Black

Wellsville was a community around what was known as the Applegate sawmill in the 1850's. It consisted of a store operated by J. Broadwell, two buildings owned by Dunlap, and also the building owned by Neg Conklin, the Billiard Saloon, boarding house connected with said mill, blacksmith shop all located in land held by J.G. Walbridge and B. Sills.

On April 15, 1861 Justus Wells filed a mechanics lien against James Hubbard for $136.98, for 6545 Bd. Ft. of Lumber furnished by Justus Well, James G. Walbridge and Baldwin Sills doing business as Justus Wells and Company.

On August 8, 1861, J.G. Walbridge and B. Sills sold by Quit Claim for $7500.00 of legal money of the United States, to David L. Hopkins, the following being the two thirds (2/3) interest of the parcel of land in the North West Quarter of Section fifteen (15) Township 39 S. of Range 3 W WM. And two thirds (2/3) interest in the sawmill installed on said land and known as the Applegate sawmill together with the water privileges, fixtures and appurtenances belonging to the same and the buildings there on, excepting the buildings owned by Dunlap, and the building owned and accepted as a store by J. Broadwell and also a building owned by Naw Conklin which said buildings are excepted in this conveyance, also the undivided interest in the tract of land known at the Jennings Ranch adjoining the land on which the sawmill is erected and no improvements there on, also seven yoke of oxen with yokes and chains two log wagons and a new set of trees and braces belonging to the same and also one set of blacksmith tools and the coal now on hand. One large freight wagon, complete.

On the 2nd of September, 1861 Justus Well sold one third (1/3) interest in sawmill to Daniel Hopkins for the sum of $606.00 lawful money; including the same North West Quarter of Section fifteen (15) also interest in the two log wagons, one lumber wagon, one house known as the boarding house connected to said mill, the blacksmith shop and tools, five or seven yoke of oxen as the case may be as two have strayed away. Also included, the Billiard Saloon and fixtures, there in, a Billiard table. This was about the end of Wellsville

as Hopkins soon had other interests. In Lee Port stories he said that Wellsville was attacked by Indians, some buildings burned and people killed. In the 1940's I saw a picket fence around what was supposed some graves that was supposed to be from Wellsville. The next time I was there fire had been in the area and picket fence burned up.

Justus Wells moved down the Applegate River to the NW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section three (3) TWP 39 S Range 3 West WM and set up another water power sawmill on Applegate Creek near Uniontown which he operated till on the 20th day of August, 1866. He sold the mill to U. S. Hayden and Theodoric Cameron for $4500.00 including blacksmith tools, four yoke of cattle, yokes and chains belong to the same and one log wagon.

Cameron and Hayden continued to operate the sawmill as we find in Billy Cameron diary for January 30, 1868. He yoked the oxen and dragged logs around to the mill, and for several entries next few weeks following, entries of hauling lumber down Applegate also to Rays.

Justus Well, was born in Wayne Co. Ohio in 1816, married Cordelia, February 27, 1840, arrived in Oregon, November 15, 1849.

This is the end of John's story on Wellsville. There is some information on other things following.

On the 20th day of February 1862, L. Ganung sold to David L. Hopkins for the sum of $200.00, two thirds (2/3) interest in part of the quarts mill at the forks of Jackson Creek located in Jackson County, State of Oregon. All the undivided two thirds (2/3) interest on part of the quarts Mill engine, Machinery thereunto belonging and also the Mill House and other buildings said quartz Mill company with the understanding that said sale is, subject to mortgage on said interest of $1000.00 and subject to one third (1/3) indebtedness of the Quartz Mill Company.

Signed L. Ganung

In the presence of
Wm Hoffman
C.C. Beekman

Henry Gatjo to Daniel Hopkins

On the 24th of February 1862, Henry Gatjo in consideration of Seven Hundred Forty Six and 76/100 dollars, $746.76, lawful money all the undivided one third (1/3) interest in or part of the quartz mill, engine, machinery and fixtures thereunto belonging and also the Mill house and other buildings belonging to the said Quartz Mill Company. With the understanding that the sale is subject to a mortgage on said interest for $900.00 in favor of Pape and Hoeflein and also subject to one third (1/3) other indebtedness of said Quartz Mill

Company. Said quartz mill situated near the forks of Jackson Creek, Jackson County and State of Oregon.

Signed Henry Gatjo

Presents of Wm Hoffman

The Quarts Mill was set up in 1860 by Pape and Hoeflein and put in operation and in 1861 there were several mechanics liens recorded, one by Burpee – Linn Co. Recorded for lumber for mill building also other liens. It seems Mortgages were given to pay the liens.

The Quarts Mill steam engine was converted into a steam powered sawmill. An article in the Oregon Sentinel, December 22, 1866, the steam sawmill recently fitted up by D. Hopkins and Co. at the forks of Jackson Creek, is now in good running order, and making havoc in the splendid timber of that locality. Orders for lumber is solicited, and will be promptly filled as the mill can cut as high as five thousand feet per day.

By 1874 Hopkins Company had moved the steam powered sawmill to Section 5 TWP 38 S R3W WM on Seabes land claim. On Jackass Creek, Daniel Hopkins bought a cash enter 120 acre adjoining Seabes Claim. The Patent was dated December 18, 1876 (Vol. 7 P513).

On April19, 1876 Daniel Hopkins married Sarah Elizabeth McKee by J W Stinson, J.P., at the house of her father John McKee. Witt: Simon McKee, Terressa Delong. At Daniel's death they had two daughters.

They logged and sawed lumber till Daniel's death on October 31, 1879. Leaving a widow Sarah and two daughters, Melody L Hopknis age 3 years, and Jesie Hopkins age 18 months, also a son by former marriage Alfred Hopkins age 13 years.

According to the will and probate records Daniel was sole owner of the sawmill, cash entry and had filed on homestead land.

January 5, 1881 Mrs. Sarah Hopkins married David King at the house of Elias B. McKee J.P. Witt: A.D. McKee and L.D. McKee.

March 7, 1885 agreement between David and Sarah King and Max Muller to make roads across the E ½ of the NW ¼ and S ½ of the NE ¼ Section 5 TWP 38 S R3W WM, which was the homestead lands on Jackass Creek, Jackson Co. Oregon and cut trees on Kings land at 75 cents per tree to pay a $303.50 grocery bill owed Max Muller and saw them in the Hopkins sawmill he purchased at administrators sale also the logs from the Jackie Smith Place he purchased.

David Hopkins administrator of Daniel Hopkins estate sold the cash entry 120 acres to David King on December 8, 1885 for $500.00.

On August 28, 1886 Kings mortgaged the cash entry to A.H. Maegly for $779.50.

On April 13, 1889 the homestead patent was issued to Sarah King formerly Sarah Hopkins for the E ½ NW ¼ and S ½ of the NE ¼ of Section 5 TWS 38 S R3W WM, containing 160 acres.
David and Sarah King sold the 280 acre property to A.H. Maegly for $1578.00 by warranty deed.

On September 5, 1888, A.H. Maegly sold the King 280 acres to E.P. Vickroy for $2000.00 and $685.00 mortgage on September 8, 1888.

E.P. Vickroy held the property till 1908 when he sold to Lee and Helen Black for $3500.00. It seems the sawmill was moved off the property about 1896. Vickroy had renters on the property over the years he owned the property. He gave a mining lease for several years to replace the Hopkins ditch to minimum ditch grade and leave the hydraulic pipe on the property. William Bostwick was renter when Lee bought the property, to get immediate possession he had to buy Bostwick's hay crop for $300.00. Some where in the land deeds the Hopkins 1876 water was lost for the West Fork of the West Fork of Jackass Creek or the Oregon Belle Creek and he only got a 6 acre 1894 water right for the main Left Fork of Jackass Creek. To get the water right for the 26 acres that the State Water Resources showed for the property in 1900 from the West Fork or Oregon Belle or West Fork of the West Fork of Jackass Creek.

John Black found out this bit of local history while researching information about his property on Forest Creek.

This information was retyped with no editing.